

State Comparisons:
 Compulsory Attendance, Graduation & Dropout Rates, Length of School Year,
 Credit Requirements for Graduation, Definition of High School Credit in Hours

State	Compulsory Attendance (age range) ¹	Averaged Freshman Graduation Rates (%) ² 2006-07 ³	Event Dropout Rates (%) ⁴ 2006-07 ³	Length of School Year/Day ⁵			State Requirements for Graduation (Credits) ⁶	Definition of High School Credit in Hours (if listed as an option) ⁷
				Days	Hours	Calculated Hours/Day		
Alabama	7-16	67.1	2.3	175			24	140
Alaska	7-16	69.1	7.3	180			21	
Arizona	6-16	69.6	7.6	180			20	123
Arkansas	5-17 (must complete school year)	74.4	4.6	178	1,068	6	21	120
California	6-18	70.7	5.5	180			13	120
Colorado	7-16	76.6	6.9		990 (Elementary) 1,080 (Secondary)		(Locally determined)	
Connecticut	5-18	81.8	2.1	180	900	5	20	120
Delaware	5-16	71.9	5.5		1,060 (1-11); 1,032 (12)		22	135

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District of Columbia	5-18	54.9	7.1	180			23.5	
Florida	6-17	65.0	3.8	180			24	135
Georgia	6-16	64.1	4.6	180			22	135-150
Hawaii	6-18	75.4	5.4	180			22	
Idaho	7-16	80.4	2.6		810 (1-3); 900 (4-8); 990 (9-12)		21	
Illinois	7-17	79.5	4.0	176			16	
Indiana	7-18	73.9	2.7	180	900 (1-6), 1,080 (7-12)	5-6	20	250 minutes/week for one semester.
Iowa	6-16	86.5	2.3	180	990	5.5	(Locally determined)	120

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Kansas	7-18	78.9	2.7	186 (1-11); 181 (12)	1,116 (1-11); 1,086 (7-12)	6	21	
Kentucky	6-16	76.4	3.0	175	1,050	6	22	120
Louisiana	7-18 (17 with parental consent)	61.3	7.4	177	1,062	6	23	7,965 – 10,620 minutes
Maine	7-17	78.5	5.3	175 (1-11); 170 (12)			16	
Maryland	5-16	80.0	3.8	180	1,080	6	21	
Massachusetts	6-16	80.8	3.8	180	900 (elementary) 990 (secondary)	5-5.5	(Locally determined)	
Michigan	6-16	77.0	7.4		1,098		(Locally determined)	

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				Days	Hours	Calculated Hours/Day		
Minnesota	7-16	86.5	3.0	LEA Option			24	
Mississippi	6-17	63.6	4.3	180			20	140
Missouri	7-16	81.9	3.7	174	1,044	6	22	7,830 minutes
Montana	7-16 (or completion of 8 th grade, whichever is later)	81.5	3.7	180	720 (1-3); 1,080 (4-12)	4-6	20	225 minutes per week for one year.
Nebraska	6-18	86.3	2.8		1,032 (1-8); 1,080 (9-12)		(Locally determined)	
Nevada	7-18 (unless child has graduated)	52.0	4.5	180			22.5 (being phased out)	
New Hampshire	6-18	81.7	3.2	180			19.75	

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New Jersey	6-16	84.4	2.0	180			22	40 minutes, once per week, for school year.
New Mexico	5-18	59.1	6.1		990 (1-6); 1,080 (7-12)		23	
New York	6-17 (in cities with 4,500 or more populations and union-free school districts, otherwise 16 if approved by local school board)	68.8	5.3	180			22	
North Carolina	7-16	68.6	5.7	180	1,000	5.55	20	
North Dakota	7-16	83.1	2.3	173			(Locally determined)	

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				Days	Hours	Calculated Hours/Day		
Ohio	6-18	78.7	4.5	182			21	120
Oklahoma	5-18 (or 16 if excused by written joint agreement)	77.8	3.5	180	1,080	6	23	120
Oregon	7-18 (or excused by district school board; 16 with consent of school administrations and parent)	73.8	4.6		810 (1-3), 900 (4-8), 990 (9-12)		22	130
Pennsylvania	8-17	83.0	Unavailable	180	900 (1-6), 990 (7-10)	5-5.5	(Locally determined)	120
Rhode Island	6-18	78.4	5.8	180			18	
South Carolina	5-17	58.9	3.9	180			24	120

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South Dakota	6-18 (16 or completion of 8 th grade if member of certain religious organizations)	82.5	3.9		962.5 (4-12)		22	146
Tennessee	6-18 (18 th birthday)	72.6	3.1	180			20	133
Texas	6-18	71.9	4.0	180			22	
Utah	6-18	76.6	3.1	180	810 (1); 990 (2-12)	4.5-5.5	24	
Vermont	6-16	88.6	Unavailable	175			20	120
Virginia	5-18	75.5	2.6	180	990 (1-12)	5.5	22	140

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Washington	8-18 (16 and parent agrees that child should not be required to attend, or child is emancipated, or child has received certificate of competence)	74.8	5.1	180			19	150
West Virginia	6-16	78.2	4.0	180			24	135
Wisconsin	6-18	88.5	2.2	180	1,050 (1-6); 1,137 (7-12)	5.83-6.31	13	
Wyoming	7-16	75.8	5.1	175			13	125-150

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¹ U.S. Department of Labor (December 2008). *Employment Related Provisions in State Compulsory School Attendance Laws – January 1, 2009*. Prepared by the Office of Performance, Budget, and Departmental Liaison, Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. Retrieved 10/1/09 from <http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/state/schoolattend.htm>.

² Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate is an estimate of the percentage of an entering freshman class graduating in four years (reference: Stillwell (2009), Endnote #3, page 6).

³ Stillwell, R. (2009). *Public School Graduates and Dropouts from the Common Core of Data: School Year 2006-2007* (NCES 2010-313). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. Retrieved 10/22/09 from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010313>.

⁴ The event dropout number represents the proportion of students dropping out each year (reference: Stillwell (2009), Endnote #3, page A-3).

⁵ Prendergast, K.A., Spradlin, T.E., Palozzi, V.J. (2007). *Is it Time to Change Indiana's School-Year Calendar?* Education Policy Brief, Center for Evaluation and Education Policy, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. Retrieved 9/19/09 from http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/custom/portlets/recordDetails/detailmini.jsp?_nfpb=true&_ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=ED495755&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=ED495755.

⁶ *State Requirements for High School Graduation, in Carnegie Units, 2001*. National Center for Education Statistics, Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. Retrieved 9/19/09 from <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d01/tables/PDF/table153.pdf>.

⁷ The Washington State Board of Education (2009). *States' Definitions of Credit*. Prepared for CORE 24 Implementation Task Force Meeting May 18, 2009. Retrieved 9/19/09 from <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/States%20Credit%20Definitions.pdf>. Additional information provided via e-mail by Kathe Taylor, Ph.D., Policy Director, Washington State Board of Education, on 10/1/09.